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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
INDIA

IPF:(1992-96) $156 120 000

(IND/92/032)- Development and Strengthening of Plant Quarantine Facilities

Date of approval by the AC:1/	30 September 1992
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Agriculture
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$3 158 500 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$3 158 500

Project background

In 1988 the Government of India announced a national policy on seed development as part of its overall strategy to increase the country's agricultural productivity. A key feature of the policy calls for the liberalized import of high-quality seeds and planting materials, in large volumes, to help increase production and consumption of various agricultural products including those for export.

The New Delhi-based Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine, and Storage (DPPQS) under the Ministry of Agriculture has launched a concerted national programme designed to upgrade the expertise and facilities required for the quarantine and post-entry operations in tandem with related legislative, regulatory, and administrative actions. Specifically, the DPPQS aims at establishing a decentralized network of modern Plant Quarantine and Fumigation Stations (PQFS) - currently 26 in total - to be staffed by trained multi-disciplinary teams deployed at the major international airports, seaports and selected land-frontiers of the country. Under this scheme, five of the PQFSs located at Bombay, Calcutta, New Delhi, Madras and Amritsar have been designated to assume main responsibility to with handle the bulk imports encouraged under the new seed policy. Those five PQFSs also will handle most of the exports in addition to providing needed technical and advisory support to other PQFSs.

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) upgrade the scientific and technical capabilities of the five selected PQFSs to enable them to conduct a full range of plant quarantine and post-entry quarantine operations required for the bulk import, in

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accordance with international norms and standards; (b) catalyze the DPPQS's long-term programme; (c) enable the designated PQFSs to upscale their inspection, quarantine, and related laboratory facilities; (d) train cadres of technical personnel in virology, nematology, entomology, plant pathology, bacteriology, and weed science; (e) pay special attention to their mastering procedures and techniques for the detection and exclusion of exotic pests and pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, and nematodes, when handling the bulk imports; (f) design modules and prepare related manuals and guidelines for the continual training of the PQFS staff, customs officials, and others concerned with the detection, testing and interception of exotic pests and pathogens dangerous to Indian agriculture; and (g) contribute to India's effort to introduce globally acceptable phyto-sanitary certification to the exportable materials in accordance with the International Plant Protection Convention under FAO's aegis.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 21 work-months of international consultancy including six work-months of split missions by a non-resident chief consultant; 11 work-months of consultancy in seed health testing, virology, training techniques, PQ regulations, pesticide applications; and four work-months of short-term consultancy in reserve; a mid-term and a terminal evaluation; 90 work-months of fellowship training and 12 work-months of study-tours in virology, bacteriology, mycology, entomology, nematology, chemistry and weed science; and equipment for inspection, testing, and related quarantine laboratory work.

Financial data

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Personnel	400 000
Training	660 000
Equipment	1 998 500
Miscellaneous	100 000
Total	3 158 500

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF VIETNAM

IPF:(1992-96) $100 402 000

(VIE/91/011) - State Enterprise Reform

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	30 September 1992
Expected duration:	24 months
Proposed executing agency:	World Bank (IBRD)
Implementing agents:	State Planning Committee (SPC) Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) Ministry of Finance (MOFI) State Bank of Viet Nam (SBV)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$2 975 000 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$2 975 000
Administrative and Operational Support Services (AOS)	$297 500 Agency: IBRD

Project background

The economy of Vietnam is undergoing a major restructuring towards a more market-oriented economic system. Considerable progress has been made in substantially reducing price distortions, relaxing restrictions on trade and fostering private sector activities, especially in agriculture. Progress has also been made in substantially reducing macroeconomic imbalances. Nevertheless, some important issues need to be addressed in order to consolidate the gains already made. Particularly important is the poor performance of state enterprises, and its adverse effect on macroeconomic stability, employment and economic growth. Improved efficiency of the state enterprise sector will be critical in improving the Government's fiscal performance and in slowing growth in (subsidized) domestic credit, and thereby, in reducing inflationary pressures. The Government therefore attaches top priority to an early implementation of the State Enterprise Reform. It has requested UNDP assistance under the present approval to improve the management and financial supervision of state enterprises, restructure and clear their overdue debt, liquidate bankrupt/non-viable enterprises and, on a trial basis, divest a number of non-strategic enterprises. Resources released from inefficient state enterprises are expected to be directed to socially desirable activities which could benefit a wider cross-section of the community, including the poor and disadvantaged groups in society.

Two ongoing projects are providing assistance to lay the groundwork for the state enterprises reform programme. Both projects are being executed by the World Bank. A

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Japanese funded project (with a financial input of $800,000, to be completed in 1992) is addressing some of the most immediate constraints to economic reform, particularly the legal and regulatory framework. VIE/92/010 ($200,000 plus $195,000 co-financing expected from Japan) is financing training to develop the skills base for enterprise reform.

Description of project

The development objective is to provide an improved basis for greater macroeconomic stability and sustained economic growth through the development of a more efficient state enterprise sector, and by providing an enhanced policy, regulatory and macroeconomic environment for investment from all sources, including the private sector.

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) develop the institutional capability to formulate strategies for state enterprise reform, to coordinate implementation of these reforms, and to continually review and revise reform strategies based on feedback and evaluation during implementation; (b) design the necessary policy and legal framework to support reform; (c) improve the financial supervision and management of enterprises that remain under state ownership; and (d) transfer ownership of some enterprises and/or enterprise assets to the private sector.

After Project completion, Vietnamese institutions should have a substantially strengthened analytical and implementation capability to undertake enterprise supervision and reform. Staff from a wide range of institutions and enterprises will have been trained in formal workshops and seminars, and through on-the-job training provided by consultants, in financial analysis, business law, accounting and auditing, mergers and liquidations, labour market issues, securities and anti-monopoly regulation. A number of non-strategic, economically non-viable enterprises will have been liquidated, and trial programmes of divestiture will have been implemented and evaluated. Key policy analysts and decision makers will have had an opportunity to study how State Enterprise Reform has been managed in other countries.

Inputs

UNDP will provide five work-months for a senior policy advisor on SE reform; 24 work-months for a resident technical advisor; four unspecified state enterprise reform expert work-months; five work-months for a securities market expert; three work-months for a competition law expert; three work-months for an audit law expert; two work-months for unspecified legal expertise; three separate subcontracts in the areas of legal and policy framework, financial supervision and management, and liquidation and privatization, with a total input of 125 work-months of specialists in corporate law, state enterprise reform and privatization; six study tours focusing on policies to assist displaced SE workers, policy planning and legal aspects of SE reform, securities market development, financial restructuring/liquidation of SEs, financial techniques and institutional arrangements for SE supervision, and techniques for SE divestiture; internal workshops and seminars; four vehicles; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	713 400
Subcontract	1 830 000
Training	267 000
Equipment	125 200
Miscellaneous	39 400
Total	2 975 000

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF CAMBODIA

IPF:(1992-96) $105 319 000

(CMB/92/010) - Small Enterprise and Informal Sector Promotion

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	30 September 1992
Expected duration:	24 months
Proposed executing agency:	ILO in association with CARE International
Government implementing agency:	The Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$3 335 300 Source of funds: IPF
Previous UNDP budget:	$ 488 100
Total UNDP budget:	$3 823 400

Project background

Cambodia is coping with the ongoing resettlement and reintegration of 700,000 persons made up of approximately 380,000 refugees returning from camps in Thailand, 140,000 soldiers who will be demobilized as part of the peace process, and 180,000 internally displaced persons. The initial phases of this process are already resulting in growing un- and under-employment and decreasing real incomes of large sections of the population. The steadily increasing pressure on labour markets and very limited resources affect all Cambodians, the local population as well as new or returning settlers. Some have been able to make use of the new opportunities offered by moves, since 1990, towards a market economy and the privatization of the agricultural, industrial and service sector. It is recognized, however, that other groups, making up a significant portion of the population are at disadvantage to be able to benefit from these changes, and have become increasingly vulnerable.

Although it had originally been foreseen that it would be possible to resettle the large majority of returning refugees on agricultural land, more recent assessments have made it clear that due to the heavy mining of large areas, many will have to find other sources of income than farming. Many are settling in towns and are facing difficulties in adapting to a fast changing society. They generally have a long experience of camp life which has not prepared them for the new economic environment. Wage-employment opportunities are limited and in this situation it is difficult to identify opportunities for self-employment and businesses. Neither do they have the funds to invest in such activities or access to credit. Although many do have relevant vocational skills, they are thus unable to contribute to the development of the local economy and to successfully reintegrate into Cambodian society.

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Both the Peace Accords and the Secretary-General's Appeal make special reference to the need for reintegration assistance to the demobilized military forces. Women who are the main or sole source of income for their households, among the local population, returnees, and demobilized soldiers, are the most vulnerable group. The privatization of agricultural land and the relative difficulties for women to cultivate the land independently, without any communal support systems, has resulted in many selling their land and becoming landless. As a result many women and their families have become dependent on subsistence level small-scale business or income generating activities, mostly in the informal sector. Women in general, among the returning refugees, rural migrants and those already engaged in the informal sector, have had less access to education and training. Being landless and without any other assets, they are dependent on private money lenders for short-term credit to finance their income generating activities, which severely limits the possibilities for their expansion or graduation to more productive entrepreneurship.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to contribute to the long-term socio-economic development of Cambodia and the raising of living standards through the promotion of small-scale, private sector economic activities.

The immediate objective of the project is to develop and implement an integrated small enterprise and informal sector promotion programme aimed at socially disadvantaged groups.

Project activities will include: (a) establishing and equipping five local economic development agenices (LEDAs) in Phnom Penh, Battambang, Kampot, Siem Reap and Kompong Cham; (b) undertaking detailed surveys to ascertain the local demand for products and services, and required assistance in the informal sector; (c) identifying factors limiting earnings and expansion of higher productivity in the urban informal sector; (d) developing tailor-made programmes for training and extension for small enterprise promotion and entrepreneurship; and (e) establishing small enterprise revolving credit scheme.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 24 work-months of a chief technical adviser; 12 work-months of an expert in training of small enterprise trainers and materials development; 12 work-months of an expert in informal sector and micro-credit; four work-months of a consultant in opportunity identification; eight work-months of an expert on small scale technology; three work-months of an expert in women's requirements in small enterprise/informal sector development; five UNVs specialized in small enterprise and informal sector promotion and credit who will assist in the overall management of each LEDA; four UNVs specialized in small-scale technology; 24 work-months of 27 local professionals to become small enterprise promotion officers (SEPOs); 24 work-months of eight local professionals to become the informal sector agents (ISAs); a subcontract with CARE International to recruit the informal sector agents and to undertake the opportunity surveys; short-term regional fellowships for the 27 SEPOs and eight ISAs; in-service training and group training; expendable and non-expendable equipment; financial provision for a small credit revolving fund ($ 400,000), and an informal sector credit revolving fund ($ 213,000).

Financial data

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Personnel	1 752 800
Subcontract	250 000
Training	169 000
Equipment	409 500
Miscellaneous	141 000
Revolving Funds	613 000
Total	3 335 300

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
CAMBODIA

IPF:(1992-96) $105 319 000

(CMB/92/008) - Labour-based Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	30 September 1992
Expected duration:	12 months
Proposed executing agency:	ILO
Government implementing agency:	The Supreme National Council of Cambodia
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 044 300 Source of funds: IPF
Third-party cost sharing:	$1 970 300 (Government of the Netherlands)
Previous UNDP budget:	$ 282 800
Total UNDP budget:	$3 297 400

Project background

Cambodia is coping with the ongoing resettlement of around 700,000 persons in the form of 380,000 refugees returning from camps in Thailand, 140,000 soldiers who will be demobilized as part of the peace process and 180,000 internally displaced persons. This is creating a potentially serious situation with rapidly growing un- and under-employment. Though no official estimates on employment are available it is widely recognized that lack of employment opportunities is becoming an increasingly significant problem and under- or un-employment is acute in the non-agricultural season. The shortage of land for the refugees returning from Thailand also calls for the creation of non-farm employment opportunities. While it is recognized that this situation affects all Cambodians, it is also recognized that some groups in particular need priority attention such as returning refugees, internally displaced persons and demobilized soldiers.

The above-mentioned project is one of the three components of the Employment Generation Programme (EGP) designed by UNDP/ILO as an emergency operation to address non-agricultural employment activities and training requirements. The two other components are the Vocational Training project (under finalization in Phnom Penh) and the Small Enterprise and Informal Sector Promotion project (CMB/92/010). The EGP is closely linked to the Cambodia Resettlement and Reintegration Programme (CARERE) which is being designed as an integrated community-based programme aimed at strengthening the social services, infrastructure and administrative capacity in the four North Western Provinces of Bantey Meanchey, Siem Reap, Battambang and Pursat which are the destinations for the refugees, internally displaced persons and demobilized soldiers.

To provide direct employment to a large number of people including demobilized soldiers, improve conditions for agriculture and access to markets, health, education and

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social welfare services for rural population, the Government requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to contribute to the long-term economic development of Cambodia through the establishment of a sustainable labour-based infrastructure, development and maintenance capacity.

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) design and implement an effective labour-based infrastructure rehabilitation programme providing employment for up to 4,000 persons particularly aimed at socially and economically disadvantaged groups; and (b) develop and prepare a strategy for longer-term sustainability of rural roads and irrigation projects nation-wide using labour-based technology.

Project activities will include: (a) rehabilitating 150 km. of secondary and tertiary roads and six irrigation/waterstorage schemes in Battambang and Siem Reap, using 350,000 working days; (b) performing essential clean-up work at the historic archaeological site of Angkor, using 50,000 working days; (c) training 20 engineers, 30 technicians and 60 supervisors in the planning, organisation and implementation of labour-based road and irrigation works; (d) enabling four road engineers and four irrigation engineers to visit labour-based projects in Thailand and Nepal to quickly familiarize themselves with an operational programme in the region; (e) conducting group training to introduce skilled and unskilled workers to special public works programme and to introduce awareness on the International Labour Standards; (f) assessing the needs for regular maintenance of rural roads, irrigation projects and the potential role of labour-based technology, and the capacity of the provincial and central authorities to maintain these infrastructures; (g) reviewing the possibilities of local users groups self-funding for the recurrent maintenance of rural roads and irrigation projects; and (h) recommending whether labour-based projects for new constructions or for rehabilitation and maintenance works are appropriate for future programmes.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 12 work-months for a project manager in charge of the overall coordination of the programme, 12 work-months of a senior road engineer, 12 work-months of a senior irrigation engineer, 24 work-months for two UNVs or NGO irrigation engineers, 24 work-months for two UNV or NGO roads engineers, 12 work-months for technical and training consultancies; 288 work-months for administrative support personnel; 12 work-months for national professionals short-term consultancies; eight fellowships, group and in-service training; and miscellaneous costs.

The Government of the Netherlands will provide expendable and non-expendable equipment needed for the actual rehabilitation works, surveying and testing equipment, the labour costs, the field allowances for counterpart personnel, the mining clearance activities, and operation and maintenance.

Financial data

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Personnel	1 565 500
Subcontract	333 400
Training	209 100
Equipment	862 600
Miscellaneous	44 000
Total	3 014 600

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION

IPF:(1992-96) $151 400 000
(RAS/92/430) - Tumen River Area Development Programme

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
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Date of approval by the AC:[1]	30 September 1992
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS
Government implementing agency:	Programme Management Committee (PMC) of Participant Governments (China, DPR Korea, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russia as associated country)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$3 515 000 Source of funds: IPF
Third-party cost sharing:	$1 000 000 Source of funds: Finland
Previous UNDP contribution:	$ 825 000
Total UNDP budget:	$5 340 000

Project background

The Tumen River forms the boundary of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Russian Federation (RF) and is centrally located in Northeast Asia flowing into the Sea of Japan. In view of the strategic importance and great potential for international economic co-operation of the Tumen River Basin, the development of this area has drawn increasing international attention in recent years. Several broad economic studies have been undertaken of the Pacific Rim, North-East Asia, and the Sea of Japan which note the potential of the Tumen region.

The Tumen River Basin is considered vital towards the economic development of North-East Asia with its advantageous geographic location for the development of international transportation for the subregion (both sea and land) benefitting coastal countries along the Sea of Japan as well as the landlocked Mongolia, the distinct prospect of serving as the pole of a major land bridge to the interior of Asia and possibly Europe, the complementarity of the natural resources, labour force and industrial structure of the countries in the Region, rich natural resources, including minerals, energy, water, farmland, and forests, the desire of the frontier countries of China, DPRK, RF (formerly USSR) for the dynamic economic development in the Tumen River area; and the expressed interest of the countries neighbouring the Tumen River Area, especially Japan and Republic of Korea, in the promotion of international trade and investment in the area.

Based on the agreement of the countries represented at the Project Management Committee (PMC) as well as the comments received during fact finding missions and from associated

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agencies, UNDP assistance was requested to address preliminary and pre-feasibility issues, and provide the technical and analytical measures for development and benefits of joint action in the Tumen River Area.

Description of project

The project will prepare a short-term Action Programme of immediate confidence building measures and will develop a long-term Comprehensive Plan detailing future areas of cooperation among participant countries related to trade, industrial and sector strategy, infrastructure investment, institutional and legal development, environmental protection, and others.

Project activities will include: (a) evaluating opportunities for immediate improvement of trade relations in the Tumen River Area; (b) analyzing opportunities for short-term improvement of transport operations as well as immediate environmental concerns; (c) completing study tours of national team members, PMC members and technical experts; (d) enabling national teams to cooperate successfully in workshops, resolve issues of mutual concern, and prepare short and long-term plans; (e) establishing a data bank; (Long-Term Comprehensive Plan) (f) describing and analyzing the development potential of the Tumen River Area in terms of its natural, man-made and human resources, environmental constraints, and institutional factors as they apply to trade, industrial development and tourism; (g) preparing and evaluating development options as they relate to trade, industrial expansion, investment, human development, environmental protection, legal coordination and institutional cooperation; (h) preparing a development strategy to feasibility level, as it relates to trade, investment, industrial and tourism expansion, infrastructure, environmental protection, and legal/institutional coordination and cooperation; and (i) identifying and preparing a proposal for the development of SEZs in the Tumen River Area as well as mechanisms for institutional cooperation.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 18 work-months for programme manager (PM), 18 work-months for programme officer (PO), 18 work-months for a programme administrative assistant to the PM and PO, 18 work-months for senior advisers, 61 work-months for consultants/specialists in implementation strategies macro-economics; project, regional and development economics and planning; transit and trade issues; infrastructure engineering; legal, institutional and financial issues; and project and programme evaluation; training including study tours and workshops, and exchange of National Team members; and equipment for the PM offices.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	2 342 000
Subcontract	125 000
Training	540 000
Equipment	382 000
Miscellaneous	126 000
Total	3 515 000

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF BRAZIL

IPF:(1992-1996) $14 183 000

(BRA/92/019)- Strategic Development of Informatics

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	7 October 1992
Expected duration:	Three years and six months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	CNPQ, Universities and Research Institutes, Private Sector
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 1 080 000 Source of funds:IPF
Government cost sharing:	$ 27 000 000
Total UNDP budget:	$ 28 080 000

Project background

The computer industry in Brazil is of strategic importance to the country. It contributes two percent of the GNP with a gross internal product of (US)$ 7000 million. The Government strategy is shifting rapidly from traditional import substitution to international competitiveness. Under this circumstances, it sees its comparative advantage in the production of software, supported by a promising communications infrastructure. The goal for Brazil is to make up one to two percent of world-wide sales for software by the year 2000.

To favour competitiveness, there is a need to coordinate research and support export promotion for software, through linkages between the academic community, the private sector and the Government, in the context of the Brazilian National Plan for the Computer Industry. To carry out this plan the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) plays a critical role, as the main funding agency for the country's R&D activities.

The project has been appraised by an independent international consultant who concluded that "there is every likelihood of a software industry emerging in Brazil that is capable of competing in world markets and the proposed project will contribute significantly to this objective".

Description of project

The project is related to areas #1 and #2 of the Fifth Country Programme for Brazil,

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namely "education, science and technology" and "modernization of the productive sector". Its immediate objectives cover: (i) Inter-institutional coordination of the three main programmes of the National Plan for the Computer Industry; (ii) Development of a nationwide network supporting multiple protocols and offering basic INTERNET services and gateways to other networks and services; and (iii) Research projects by Universities and R&D institutions, with special emphasis in networking infrastructure and software for export, in support of the Government's SOFT-EXPORT 2000 PROGRAM.

The main outputs are expected to reflect: (1) a defined strategy for the Strategic Development of Informatics in Brazil for the period 1995-2000; (2) implementation and operation of a backbone informatic network connecting mayor governmental institutions and private sector organizations involved in Science and Technology; (3) funding and implementation of relevant software development R&D projects geared towards the export markets; and (4) institutionalization of coordination mechanisms between the Government, educational institutions and the private sector involved in the Brazilian informatics industry.

Success indicators will include: (a) interconnection of the main universities with regional networks in at least ten states; (b) incorporation of at least five more graduate courses in computer science; and (c) implementation of at least fifty research projects on strategic themes and the achievement of a one percent target of world-wide sales of software.

At the end of the project, it is expected to have successfully contributed to changing the focus of the computer industry from hardware to software production, and from the domestic to the international market.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 210 work-months of international consultancies in software development, marketing and networking; 72 work-months for two national consultants in networking and software; 720 work-months for technicians in each strategic area; 360 work-months of national consultancies in network, software and research themes; 370 work-months of subcontracts in software development and marketing, international connections and networking; computer training; specialized computer equipment, software, communication devices and office equipment.

Financial data

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Personnel	5 502 000
Subcontract	2 587 000
Training	1 947 000
Equipment	15 215 000
Miscellaneous	2 829 000
Total	28 080 000

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APPROVAL OF UNDP/UNCDF ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF BANGLADESH

IPF:(1992-96) $163 172 000

(BGD/91/C06)- Integrated Aquaculture

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	7 October 1992
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed cooperating agency:	UNDP/OPS
Government executing agency:	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
Proposed UNCDF contribution:	$1 860 000
Source of funds:	General Resources

Project background

Endowed with very few natural resources and only limited potential for industrial development, Bangladesh experiences increasing difficulties of employing and feeding its fast growing population. About 30 percent of the nation's labour force is chronically under- or unemployed. Average per capita income is stagnating at a very low $170; and over half the nation's population lives below the official poverty line. Many of them suffer from malnutrition, in particular, lack of animal proteins in their diet.

Fish is the preferred form of dietary protein for the majority of Bangladeshis and constitutes 80 percent of the animal protein consumed nationally. In recent years, national demand for fish has increased while production has declined from overfishing and stock depletion. As a result, fish has become scarcer and prices have been rising rapidly.

Aquaculture production has considerable potential for increasing fish supply. Over half the country's ponds currently lie derelict or under-utilized; yet, environmental conditions for fish farming are favourable and production could be doubled with proper investment and extension.

Intensive fish farming can be extremely lucrative for producers as returns to farmers are currently higher than almost all other competing agricultural activities. However, farmers who wish to move into intensified village fish production face many constraints, including lack of access to credit and extension services and scarcity of affordable fish feed.

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PRISM, a Bangladeshi NGO specializing in the dissemination of appropriate technologies for rural development, has been developing a low-cost fish-feed substitute which is based on the cultivation of duckweed (lemnacea). Duckweed is a high-protein crop that grows wild on stagnant ponds throughout Bangladesh. It has been used in fish polyculture elsewhere in Asia, Israel and South America but has not yet been exploited for productive purposes in Bangladesh. In addition to its value as a low cost protein source, duckweed also has water purification properties and has been used experimentally to treat municipal waste and sewage.

Description of project

The project seeks to address the primary constraints blocking a national increase in fish (aquaculture) production: lack of extension, credit and affordable fish feed. PRISM will assist 1000 landless and small farmers in two of the poorest districts of Bangladesh by providing them the technology and credit financing needed to enter into intensive fish farming based on duckweed technology. Farmer groups will form commercial enterprises to produce duckweed and fish on 200 hectares of pond land. The enterprises will be run on a commercial basis. In return for providing inputs and technical/managerial assistance, PRISM will receive a share of the company's revenue.

It is expected that participating farmers will double their incomes during the course of the project based on a sustained fish and duckweed production of 5 MT/hectare and 200 MT/hectare, respectively. In the long term it is expected that the project will establish a low-cost system of integrated fish-farming which is replicable at the national level.

Inputs

UNCDF will provide PRISM, a Bangladeshi NGO, with the facilities, infrastructure, and capital needed to extend duckweed technology. This will be accomplished primarily through technical and managerial assistance, credit and production inputs, to small commercial enterprises composed of small-scale farmers and the landless.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	170 000
Subcontract	736 000
Equipment	87 000
Miscellaneous	455 000
Contingencies	217 000
OPS Support cost	137 000
UNCDF Support cost	58 000
Total	1 860 000

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNCDF/UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF NICARAGUA

IPF:(1992-96) $ 19 900 000

(NIC/92/C01) - Construction of Bridge on the Jicaro River

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	7 October 1992
Expected duration:	12 months
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Construction and Transport
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 26 200 (PRODERE)
Government cost sharing:	$ 6 000
Proposed UNCDF contribution:	$ 946 400

DEPT.

Project background

The UNCDF 1992-96 program was developed within the framework of the "National Development Strategy" and "Program of National Reconciliation and Economic Rehabilitation (PRRN). For optimal impact and cost effective management, the program will be concentrated in the mid-section of the Coco river basin and complement PRODERE's development activities. The program is designed to contribute to: (a) the spatial extension and economic diversification of the country's productive base along the so-called "eje potencial de desarrollo"; and (b) the process of government decentralization and the empowerment of local governments ("municipios") to plan, manage and support local development activities.

Individual investment projects will include the electrification of the Quilali-Wiwili are, the construction of the Wiwili mini-hydro plant, the improvement of the Quilali water system and Jalapa sanitation system, grain storage enterprise in Jalpapa, and municipal credit systems for productive activities.

PRODERE (Development Program for Displaced, Refugees and Repatriated Persons in Central America) a UNDP/OPS executed project, is the largest program active in Region I and VI of the Central Macro-region. The immediate needs of the target population of PRODERE are identified and prioritized by the community through its Committee. PRODERE is successfully trying to incorporate them into the local economy by providing access to social infrastructure (health, schools and housing), land for agriculture and livestock production and credit. UNCDF's financing of investment project at an intermunicipal scale will create a regional synergy effect for the grassroots microeconomic program in the area covered by PRODERE.

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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Description of project

The project will directly relate and complement two of the main areas of concentration in the Fifth UNDP Country Programme for Nicaragua, specifically: (1) the National Reconciliation through the reintegration and promotion of the economic and social development of the war affected population; and (2) the reactivation of the productive sector. It will also seek to construct a 75 m. long bridge across the Jicaro River, on a regional trunk road at the outskirt of the Quilali urban center. Project activities will include: (a) removing a transport bottleneck and contributing to better conditions for agricultural production and productivity in the "La Vigia" valley and the entire area north of the Coco river and east of the Jicaro river, where PRODERE is actively extending technical assistance and credit to farmers; (b) improving access to the sub-regional Hospital and other social facilities and specialized commerce located in Quilali for the 12,000 people living east of the river; (c) facilitating an environmentally sound expansion of the Quilali urban area by relieving residential development pressures on flood prone areas: (d) catering for a growing pedestrian traffic across the river; and (e) eliminating the present danger for human lives and loss of animals and property associated with such river crossing during high water periods.

The option of constructing the bridge has been evaluated against the alternative of rehabilitating a 10 km long road that could make use of an existing small bridge crossing the river about five km upstream of Quilali. The analysis has shown that the road rehabilitation would have had a high cost per km, lack of adequate funding for maintenance, a high environmental degradation risk, and would not address the problem of pedestrian traffic and intra-urban link across the Jicaro.

Inputs

UNCDF will provide mission costs; a subcontract to construct a 75 m long bridge; program support; and contingencies to the project.

Financial data

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Missions	30 000
Subcontract	582 700
Contingencies	245 100
Program Support	88 600
Total	946 400

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF CHINA

IPF:(1992-96) $176 600 000
(CPR/91/522) - Strengthening Macroeconomic Planning and Regulation

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	7 October 1992
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	Government (China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE))
Government implementing agency:	State Planning Commission (SPC)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 650 000 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$1 650 000

Project background

China first initiated comprehensive planning in 1953 following the Soviet model whereby all key parameters of the economy were controlled by central administrative command. Systemic defects inherent in a command system and low productivity have led to several attempts at administrative decentralization. However, as they did not fundamentally alter the nature of command system, the result was economic chaos and consequent reversion to centralization. Economic performance was characterized by sharp fluctuations in growth rates, structural and sectoral imbalances and declining economic efficiency. Although the command system could periodically deliver high growth rates, growth was largely of an extensive character - factor-augmented growth based on huge additions of human, material and financial resources rather than of an intensive character based on increased efficiency of investment and higher productivity.

To break through the impasse of previous administrative decentralization-recentralization cycles, the Government of China undertook, in late 1978, a bold new course agents of action by introducing market-oriented decentralization which stressed a more consumption-oriented production structure, and which was based on intensive growth deriving from increased economic efficiency.

China has, so far, implemented its economic reform programme under the guiding principle of "planned commodity economy" in which the market mechanism plays an important resource allocation function within the framework of state determined objectives, direction and morphology of development. This hybrid plan-cum-market economic mechanism has shown certain unstable characteristics including overheating of the industrial economy, imbalances in both the real economy and in finances, and inflationary pressures. New methods and processes of planning, and indirect ways of controlling and regulating the economy are urgently needed to further deepen reform while maintaining macroeconomic stability. To this

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end the Government requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to enhance the Government's effectiveness in conceptualizing, specifying and achieving the goals of economic policy by improving and updating the SPC's methods of plan formulation and implementation. The project will address three key issues of: (i) new framework for macroeconomic policy analysis; (ii) indirect instruments of macroeconomic regulation; and (iii) the optimal degree and scope of state intervention. These issues will be examined both at a macroeconomic level by focusing on two main areas of macroeconomic policy analysis and techniques of medium - and long-term planning, and at the disaggregated sectoral/regional level, by detailed studies in five key problem areas. These will include industrial policy, regional development policy, development of an efficient and integrated market, techniques of medium - and long-term planning, the international economic environment in the 1990s and human resources development. The main findings and policy recommendations of the project will be presented to the State Council in a General Report which will identify the goals of macroeconomic planning, define the role of SPC, and identify policy instruments. The General Report will be supported by six sub-sectoral reports on the problem areas identified.

In addition to the above, the project will also initiate work on the development of a computer-based policy simulation/forecasting model of the national economy, and the establishment of a statistical database and information system to support the model, based on the work already undertaken at SPC and the State Information Centre of SPC.

Inputs

UNDP will provide approximately 35 work-months of foreign expert services in various areas of macroeconomic management; 200 work-months research fellowships, group training and study tours; and equipment including microcomputers, peripherals, software, library materials and other related items.

Financial data

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Personnel	595 000
Training	950 000
Equipment	100 000
Miscellaneous	5 000
Total	1 650 000

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